

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 24431 191413Z

44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
----- 075841

R 191207Z NOV 75  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4513  
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 24431

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3  
TAGS: SREF, BG, US  
SUBJECT: BANGLADESH OFFICER'S REQUEST FOR ASYLUM

REF: A. DACCA 5625; B. BANGKOK 23370 (NOTAL); C. STATE 270117  
(NOTAL)

SUMMARY: BANGLADESH OFFICERS WHO TOOK REFUGE IN BANGKOK NOVEMBER 4 (REFTELS) APPEAR OUTWARDLY RELAXED REGARDING THEIR STATUS. THEY HAVE TOLD PRESS THEIR STAY IN THAILAND HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO NOVEMBER 21, AND LTC. FAROOQ HAS TOLD EMBOFF THEY NOW HAVE ANOTHER PLACE TO GO TO BUT DID NOT RPT NOT WISH TO DISCUSS IT ON PHONE. FAROOQ TOLD US HE DOES NOT RPT NOT WISH TO AT THIS TIME DISCUSS STATUS OF HIS REQUEST FOR ASYLUM IN U.S. UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES EMBASSY BELIEVES IT WOULD BE MISTAKE FOR US TO ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE EXTENSION OF STAY OF BANGLADESH OFFICERS IN THAILAND. WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE STAY OUT OF THIS AND LET THAIS AND BANGLADESH OFFICERS WORK OUT THIS PROBLEM. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES DEPARTMENT'S REPEATING REF A, WHICH CONSIDERABLY CLARIFIES SITUATION REGARDING BANGLADESH MILITARY OFFICERS WHO HAVE BEEN IN THAILAND SINCE NOVEMBER 4. ORIGINAL PERIOD OF ENTRY FOR GROUP WAS FOR 14 DAYS (I.E., UNTIL NOVEMBER 18). HOWEVER, LEADER OF GROUP, LTC FAROOQ  
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 24431 191413Z

(HE IS ALWAYS IDENTIFIED HERE IN PRESS AS LTC, THOUGH WE NOTE

THAT OTHERS REFERE TO THEM AS QTE MAJORS END QTE) HAS COMMENTED TO PRESS THAT THEY HAVE OBTAINED EXTENSION OF STAY UNTIL NOVEMBER 21.

2. LTC FAROOQ PHONED POLITICAL COUNSELOR NOVEMBER 18, ASKING FOR OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE PRIVATE, UNOFFICIAL TALK. HE SAID HE DID NOT RPT NOT WISH TO RAISE ISSUE TF ASYLUM, AS GROUP NOW HAS ANOTHER PLACE TO GO TO, AND HE ANTICIPATES WILL LEAVE BANGKOK IN THREE OR FOUR DAYS (PRESUMABLY BEFORE NOVEMBER 21). HE DECLINED TO SPECULATE WHERE THEY WOULD GO DURING THIS TELEPHONE CONVERSATION.

3. FAROOQ MAY OR MAY NOT REALLY HAVE AN ALTERNATIVE PLACE TO GO AFTER NOVEMBER 21, BUT WE DO NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE THAT THAI GOVERNMENT WILL ARREST AND JAIL THE REFUGEE OFFICERS (THIS WOULD NOT RPT NOT SOLVE THAI PROBLEM) OR EXPEL THEM TO SOME THIRD COUNTRY, AS WE KNOW OF NONE, AT THIS POINT, THAT WOULD TAKE THEM.

4. WE HAVE NOTED SUGGESTION BY EMBASSY DACCA IN PARA 7, REF A, THAT QTE DEPT, COULD CONSIDER SUGGESTION TO THE THAI GOVERNMENT THAT IT GIVE THE BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT A LITTLE LONGER TIME TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM END QTE OF THE BANGLADESH OFFICERS.

5. BANGLADESH OFFICERS DO NOT RPT NOT APPEAR TO BE OVERLY CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR SITUATION AT THE MOMENT. FOLLOWING PRESENTATION OF THEIR APPLICATIONS FOR ASYLUM IN U.S. ON NOVEMBER 6, THEY HAVE NOT RPT NOT SUBSEQUENTLY INQUIRED OF EMBASSY AS TO STATUS OF APPLICATION. THEY ARE PRESUMABLY AWARE OF STATEMENT BY DEPARTMENT SPOKSMAN NOVEMBER 7, PUBLISHED IN BANGKOK PRESS NOVEMBER 9, THAT DEPT. LOOKED PRIMARILY TO HOST COUNTRY, IN THIS CASE THAILAND, TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FOR ASYLUM. IF WE SHOULD INTERVENE WITH THE THAI TO EXTEND THE STAY OF THE BANGLADESH OFFICERS HERE, THE RTG COULD INTERPRET THIS AS EVIDENCE OF STRONG U.S. INTEREST IN AND INVOLVEMENT WITH THESE OFFICERS. THEY WOULD ALSO BE LIKELY TO TURN THIS BACK AT US BY SAYING THEY WOULD EXTEND THE STAY ONLY IF WE AGREE ULTIMATELY TO TAKE THE BANGLADESH OFFICERS. WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT  
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 BANGKO 24431 191413Z

THAT WE STAY OUT OF THIS AND LET THE THAI AND BANGLADESH OFFICERS WORK OUT THE PROBLEM.  
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## Message Attributes

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